

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069235

FOLL REPEAT STATE 069235 ACTION PEKING INFO HONG KONG PHNOM
PENH PARIS MOSCOW 05 APRIL 74 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069235

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CB, CH (KHIEU SAMPHAN)

SUBJECT: KHIEU SAMPHAN PRESS CONFERENCE

REFS: A. STATE 64719; B. STATE 068264

AS THE MISSION IS AWARE, THERE HAS BEEN A LONGSTANDING DE-
BATE REGARDING THE BONA FIDES OF GRUNK LEADER KHIEU SAMPHAN
AND WHETHER HE IN FACT ESCAPED SIHANOUK'S POLICE IN 1967 OR
IS A LOOKALIKE USED BY THE COMMUNISTS WHO BADLY NEEDED A
"PROGRESSIVE" LEADER IN 1970. THIS FIRST VISIT OUTSIDE OF
CAMBODIA PRESENTS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE MUCH
NEEDED INSIGHTS INTO THE MAN WHO MAY IN FACT BE THE INSUR-
GENT LEADER TO DEAL WITH.

WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE, IN ADDITION TO THE PHOTOGRA-
PHY REQUESTED IN REF A. ANY AND ALL PERSONAL DETAILS ABOUT
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SAMPHAN THAT CAN BE GLEANED FROM CONTACTS. WE WOULD ALSO

APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SAMPHAN AND SIHANOUK OR THE ROYAL ENTOURAGE. HISTORICALLY THERE HAS BEEN DEEP HATRED BETWEEN THE PRINCE AND SAMPHAN DATING BACK TO THE MID-50'S. SIHANOUK HAD SAMPHAN, WHO IS SLIGHT, WIRY, INTENSE AND SLIGHTLY EFFEMINATE, BEATEN AND STRIPPED IN THE CENTER OF DOWNTOWN PHNOM PENH IN 1960 AND, UNTIL HIS DISAPPEARANCE, THE LEFTIST DEPUTY NEVER FORGAVE SIHANOUK OR LOST AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONFRONT OR BERATE HIM IN PUBLIC. IT IS DOUBLY INTRIGUING THEN THAT BURNS OF

THE TORONTO GLOBE REPORTS THAT SIHANOUK INTERPRETED AT KHIEU SAMPHAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 3. THE REAL KHIEU SAMPHAN SPOKE EXCELLENT FRENCH AND IN FACT HELD A FRENCH PH.D. IN ECONOMICS. IF TAPES ARE AVAILABLE OF PRESS CONFERENCE, PLEASE FORWARD. RUSH
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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